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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2429
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RUENMED/BUMED WASHINGTON DC
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RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9299
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0831
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1860
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 1781
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2119
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3357
RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY 0055
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 0213

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SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR EAP/IET, A/MED AND S/ES-O
DEPT FOR OES/FO, OES/EID, OES/PCI, OES/STC AND OES/IHA
DEPT PASS TO USDA/FAS/DLP/HWETZEL AND FAS/ICD/LAIDIG
DEPT ALSO PASS TO USDA/FAS/FAA/DYOUNG AND USDA/APHIS
DEPT ALSO PASS TO USAID/ANE/CLEMENTS AND GH/CARROLL
DEPT ALSO PASS TO HHS/BILL STEIGER AND AMAR BHAT
PARIS FOR FAS/AG MINISTER COUNSELOR
CANBERRA FOR APHIS/DHANNAPEL
ROME FOR FAO
NSC FOR JMELINE
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID/RDM/A
USPACOM ALSO PASS TO J07

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [AMED](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [AMGT](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#) [KFLU](#)
SUBJECT: INDONESIA - APRIL 6 AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

REF: Jakarta 3896 and previous

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1. (SBU) Summary: Congen Surabaya officers met with provincial and municipal animal husbandry officials on March 16 to review vaccination and culling procedures after the first reported avian influenza (AI) outbreak in Surabaya. Grobogan Regency officials in Central Java told Congen that recent news reports of an AI outbreak in the Regency had been overstated. The Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU-2) has identified a new probable AI case, a 23-year old male from Bekasi. End summary.

AI IN SURABAYA

2. (U) The City of Surabaya experienced its first outbreak of AI on February 15 with the death of three chickens. Congen Surabaya officers met with Suhartoyo, recently appointed head of the Surabaya Animal Husbandry Office, on March 16 to review procedures followed after the discovery of AI in the Kedurus area of the city. Suhartoyo said newspaper accounts of the outbreak had been accurate, and claimed his office had followed Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) outbreak response procedures to the letter. Upon discovery of the dead birds on February 15, Surabaya Animal

Husbandry officials had examined the birds and arranged to have them tested locally. After determining that the presence of AI was highly likely, the city culled all birds in a 200-meter radius and sprayed the area with disinfectant.

¶3. (U) Upon receiving positive confirmation of AI from an official MOA lab in Yogyakarta on February 19, the Surabaya Animal Husbandry Office expanded the area of disinfectant spraying and requested permission from the mayor to cull all birds within a one kilometer radius (there are no commercial poultry operations in that area of Surabaya). The mayor granted that authority the following day. In total, 1,415 birds were culled over a three-day period, mostly from individual households. Suhartoyo noted that since the first positive reports of AI in Surabaya, there have been 173 additional reports of dead birds, none of which had been due to AI.

¶4. (U) Suhartoyo stated that the city government compensated bird owners 55 cents per bird, using the city's emergency funds. He said the MOA lab in Yogyakarta handles all confirmation tests for AI in poultry for fear that local government officials might try to influence test results from local labs. In addition, sending the results to a non-local lab would deter the possibility of farmers trying to inflict economic damage by falsely reporting AI in a competing flock, according to Suhartoyo. (Note: The Airlangga University veterinary lab in Surabaya performs animal testing for all of Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara province).

¶5. (U) Suhartoyo added that since 2004, the City of Surabaya has embarked on a poultry vaccination program offering free vaccinations to all birds located in the city. So far, city

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officials have vaccinated more than 21,000 birds with a total target of 160,000. Since the recent outbreak, city officials are focusing more attention on the vaccination program. Suhartoyo said his office needs additional equipment to effectively carry out bird vaccinations.

MEETING WITH EAST JAVA PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS

¶6. (U) ConGen Surabaya discussed the recent outbreak of AI in Surabaya and the provincial poultry vaccination program with Suhadji, Deputy head of the East Java Provincial Livestock and Animal Husbandry Department and Bambang Hermawan, Head of the Animal Health Division of the Department on March 16. Suhadji stated that his office assisted the City of Surabaya Livestock office in dealing with its AI outbreak last month, and confirmed that city officials followed the proper procedures as set out by the MOA. Suhadji and Hermawan said there are no known human AI cases in East Java at this time, as recently stated by the Governor. Suhadji added that provincial officials have detected the AI virus in bird populations in 2006 in four previously "clean" regencies (Situbondo, Bondowoso, Lumajang, and Surabaya). He added that 29 of the total 38 East Java regencies and cities are now or have been infected with AI.

¶7. (U) East Java province is administering a large vaccination program covering small holders of poultry, according to Hermawan. Provincial officials have vaccinated 4 million birds in the province so far, with a goal of 23 million birds in all of the infected regencies. They are not offering vaccinations to large commercial poultry operators because provincial officials assume they can afford vaccinations for their flocks. Hermawan complained that the province has 1,000 personnel trained to administer the vaccines but they lack sufficient medicine and equipment to effectively carry out the program. Hermawan also noted that his office has been preemptively spraying disinfectant

in provincial areas populated with migratory birds, including Surabaya, Pasuruan, Sidoarjo and Gresik in an effort to delay the spread of the AI virus to domestic birds.

AI IN CENTRAL JAVA

¶18. (U) On March 20, Suara Merdeka newspaper reported the death from AI of 1,650 chickens in Grobogan Regency, Central Java. However, Dr. Rianto, Chief Veterinarian from the Animal Health Division of Grobogan Regency Livestock and Fisheries Office told Congen Surabaya officers on March 23 that the article had misstated the facts. Instead, Rianto said regency officials had destroyed 200 birds either infected with or dead from the AI virus in early 2006. In addition, regency officials destroyed 1,450 birds infected or exposed to AI in two different villages during 2004 and 400,000 dead or infected birds in 2003. Rianto clarified that the large discrepancy between the numbers of birds destroyed between 2003 and subsequent years was due to a

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massive reduction of the number of infected birds in the regency.

¶19. (U) Rianto said the regency is not culling healthy birds in the vicinity of outbreaks, only properly disposing of dead birds or culling birds showing symptoms of AI virus infection. Grobogan officials do not follow MOA directives to cull all birds within a 1-kilometer radius around an AI virus outbreak due to the ineffectiveness of the GOI's compensation program for farmers. Rianto said there is a great deal of paperwork involved with making a compensation claim, and a MOA representative must come from Jakarta to verify and approve any compensation requests, a process that is slow and prone to corruption. "Most local farmers only have a few chickens and do not object to our removing birds that are already dead or sick without compensation", noted Dr. Rianto.

Human AI Case Profile

¶10. (U) NAMRU-2 has identified a new probable case, a 23-year old male from the Jakarta suburb of Bekasi. Hong Kong Laboratories and U.S. Centers for Disease Control, (CDC), have confirmed H5N1 in two probable cases, a one-year old from Jakarta and a 5-year old from Bekasi. The Ministry of Health (MOH) and NAMRU-2 have petitioned the World Health Organization (WHO) to include two older probable cases (an 8-year old female and a 45-year old male) as positive for H5N1. Thus, these two victims are included in NAMRU-2's total, but are not listed as confirmed by the WHO.

¶11. (SBU) NAMRU-2 data indicates the following AI-related case profile as of April 4:

-- Number of laboratory confirmed (positive PCR and/or serology) human AI cases: 33, of which 25 have been fatal (fatality rate of 76 percent).

-- Number of probable AI cases: 4, with 2 deaths (fatality rate of 50 percent).

-- Number of cases awaiting verification by the US CDC: 4.

-- Number of possible AI cases under investigation: approximately 32.

-- Number of excluded AI cases: 248.

PASCOE